

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 3-10 have been amended. No new matter is introduced herein. Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify that the air blowing means is positioned above a surface of the plasma display panel to direct air to the surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the surface. Claims 1 and 6 have also been amended to clarify that the plasma display panel is cooled during aging while changing at least one of the direction or amount of air blown from the air blowing means with time. No new matter is introduced herein. Basis for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 5-15; page 8, lines 10-27; page 12, lines 11-20; page 13, lines 4-22; page 14, line 17 - page 15, line 6; and Figs. 1 and 2 of the subject specification. Claims 3-5 and 7-10 have been amended for antecedent basis.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinji et al. (JP 11-213891) in view of Oono (JP3-75596). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

... the air blowing means is positioned above a surface of the plasma display panel to direct air to the surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the surface ...

...cooling the plasma display panel during the aging while changing at least one of the direction or amount of air blown from the air blowing means with time. (Emphasis Added).

Claim 6 includes a similar recitation.

Shinji et al. disclose, in Fig. 2, an aging room 2 for aging panel 10 that is applied to tray 11 (paragraph [0015] of the machine translation). At paragraph [0023], Shinji et al. disclose including a fan in aging room 2 for cooling aging room 2

during the aging period. At paragraph [0028], Shinji et al. disclose that tray 11 is equipped with a fan for cooling circuit board 18.

As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Shinji et al. do not disclose or suggest changing at least one of a direction or amount of air blown from the air blowing means during the aging process. Thus, Shinji et al. cannot disclose changing, during the aging, at least one of the direction or an amount of air blown from the air blowing means with time, as required by claims 1 and 6 (emphasis added). In addition, Shinji et al. do not disclose or suggest that air blowing means is positioned above a surface of a plasma display panel to direct air to the surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the surface, as required by claims 1 and 6. Shinji et al. are silent regarding any spatial relationship between the fan and the surface of a plasma display panel, or that air is directed to a surface of the plasma display panel in a direction away from parallel. Accordingly, Shinji et al. do not include all of the features of claims 1 and 6.

Oono discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, a cooling structure of a circuit board including fan 6 positioned below circuit board 3 and air flow guide 2 for "variably controlling" the blown density of air provided to circuit board 3 (Claims and Description of Numerals and Signs of Main Parts).

Oono, however, does not disclose or suggest: 1) changing, during an aging, at least one of the direction or amount of air blown from the air blowing means with time or 2) that the air blowing means is positioned above a surface of the plasma display panel to direct air to the surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the surface, as required by claims 1 and 6 (emphasis added). Oono is silent regarding changing a direction of air from air blowing means with time. Instead, the direction of air flow guide 2 is fixed, as shown in Fig. 3 and 4. Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 2 of Oono, fan 6 is positioned below circuit board 3 such that air is directed parallel to circuit board 3. Thus, Oono does not make up for the deficiencies of Shinji et al. with respect to claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1 and 6 is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 4, 5, 9 and 10, Applicants note that these claims respectively recite moving or changing a direction of at least one of the air blowing

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devices. On page 4, paragraph 12 - page 5, paragraph 13 of the Office Action, it is asserted that moving or changing a direction of the air blowing devices is taught by Oono. Applicants respectfully disagree. Oono only teaches using a fixed air flow guide 2 to "variably control" the blown density of the air. Oono does not teach moving fan 6 or changing a direction of fan 6, as required by respective claims 4, 5, 9 and 10. Accordingly, the additional features of moving or changing a direction of at least one of the air blowing devices are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art.

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 include all of the features of respective claims 1 and 6 from which they depend. Accordingly, claims 2-5 and 7-10 are also patentable over the cited art, for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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